

ABBOTT AND COSTELLO

COMICS

NOT NOW, HONEY...
ABBOTT'S
WATCHING!



CONCERNING COSTELLO

By BUD ABBOTT

WHEN YOU write about Costello any resemblance to any person, living or dead, is *not* coincidental. It's preposterous! Even as a boy Costello was noted for having a very level head. It's still the flattest thing you ever saw! You've heard, of course, that he worked his way up from the bottom. But why did he go back down again? One thing I'll have to grant him is that he can really take a joke. He *always* takes my best jokes, the thief!

Did you know that he was voted one of the world's ten best dressed men in 1923? The only trouble is that he's been wearing the same suit ever since. No, wait! That's not quite right. He did buy a new suit the other day. And it fits like a glove! Indeed, I think it would make a swell catcher's mitt.

Costello has a fine physique. I'm really not fooling about his build. You should see him in a bathing suit! That magnificent torso makes the lifeguards look sick! Not only does it make the lifeguards look sick... *everybody* turns green! He's fortunate, too. He never gets sunburned. The sun doesn't stay out that long. Costello doesn't go swimming any longer, though. Not since the day the little boy begged his mother to buy him that nice beach ball... the one that talked.

Incidentally, Costello's building himself a new home. However, he's having a little trouble getting materials ever since they doubled the guard at the lumber yard.

I suppose you all know that Costello is very sentimental. That's not the reason he kept the first dollar he ever made, though. He was just afraid to try and pass it. He has the reputation of being a very lavish tipper, and I must say that it is deserved. Why I remember distinctly the time that Costello tipped a guy fifteen cents for saving his life. Yowsuh, he doesn't care what he does with his money, just so he doesn't spend it.



LOU COSTELLO

Is Costello a coward? I wouldn't go so far as to say that. But he certainly doesn't have any surplus courage. He thinks he's a great ladies' man. I'll admit he *does* have a lot of phone numbers. But you've got a new telephone directory, too, haven't you? Last year he tried to join a Lonely Hearts Club. He sent in his photo, but it was returned with a note of rejection. None of the Lonely Hearts were *that* lonely!

I do not mean to imply by any of this that Costello is dumber than an ox. However. He isn't any smarter. He's the only man I've ever heard grind gears when he thinks. Listen to this: he was out one night with a beautiful girl. She looked into his eyes and whispered, "Tell me all about yourself." "What do you think I am, a squealer?" snarled Costello. Then there was the occasion I asked him to come with me to a fire sale. He refused to go. Couldn't see the sense of buying a fire in the summer.

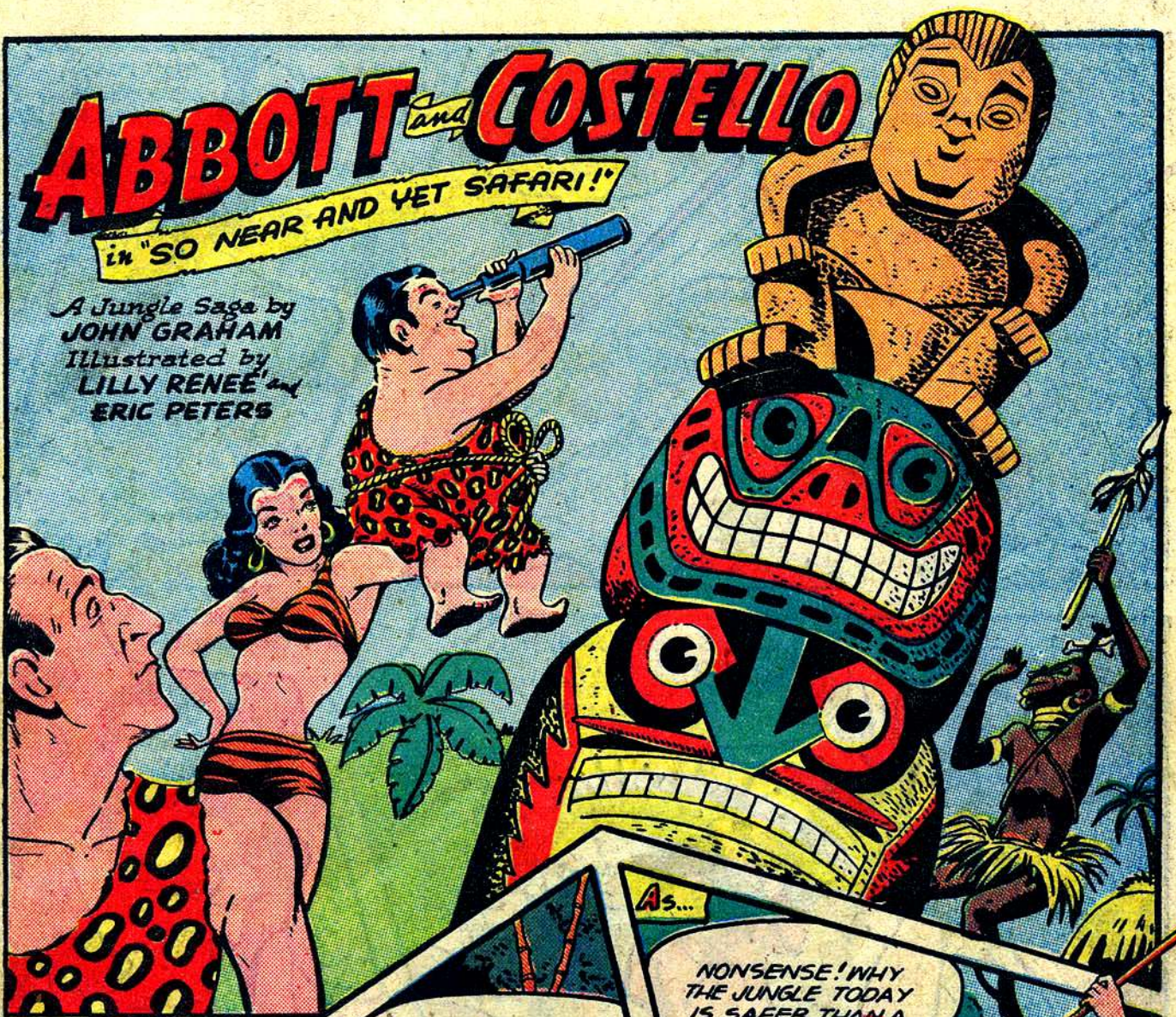
I'm sorry. I guess I shouldn't have insulted Costello. Poor little guy, he takes it to heart so. I remember the last time I was mean to him. It was pitiful. You should have seen his face. Boy, did he need a shave!

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

ABBOTT and COSTELLO

in "SO NEAR AND YET SAFARI!"

A Jungle Saga by
JOHN GRAHAM
Illustrated by
LILLY RENEE and
ERIC PETERS

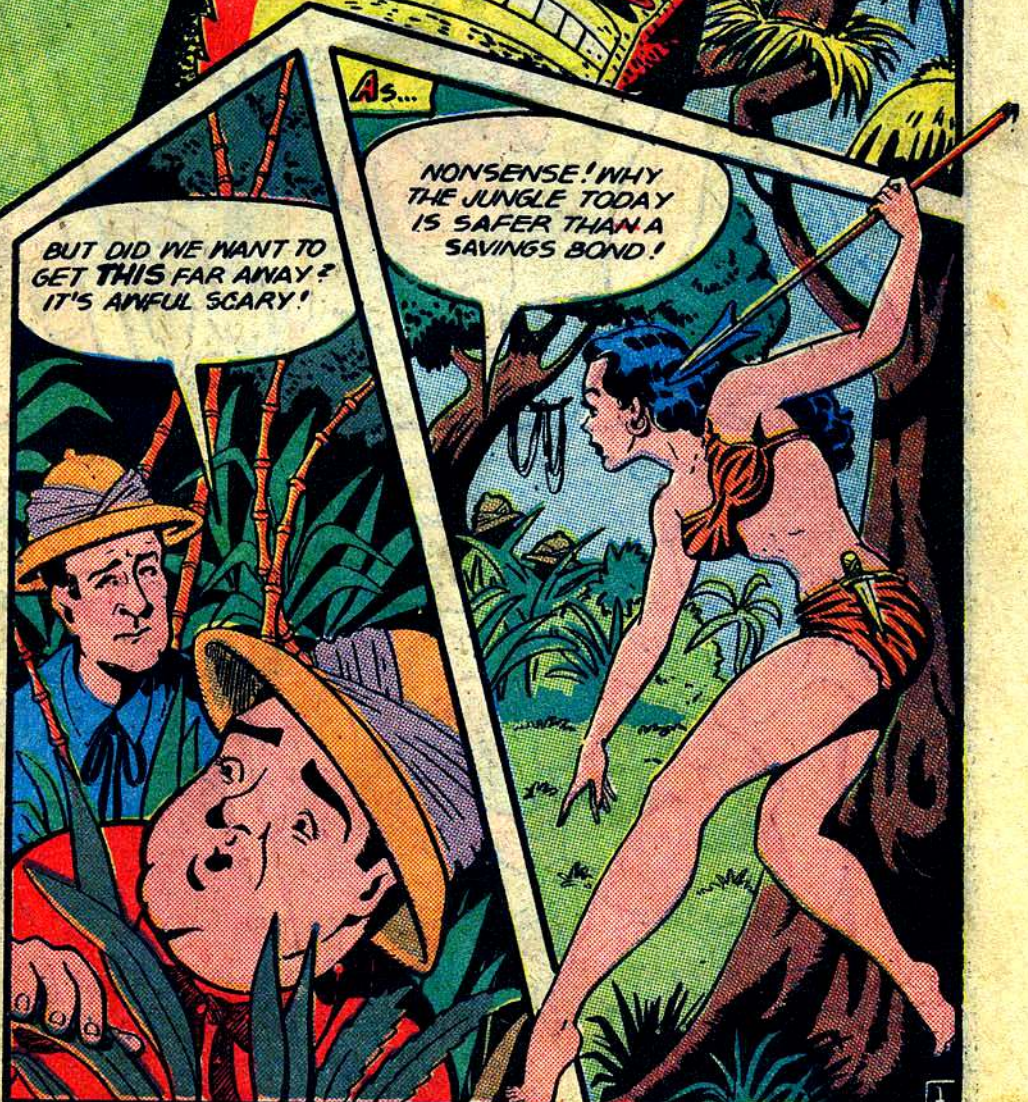


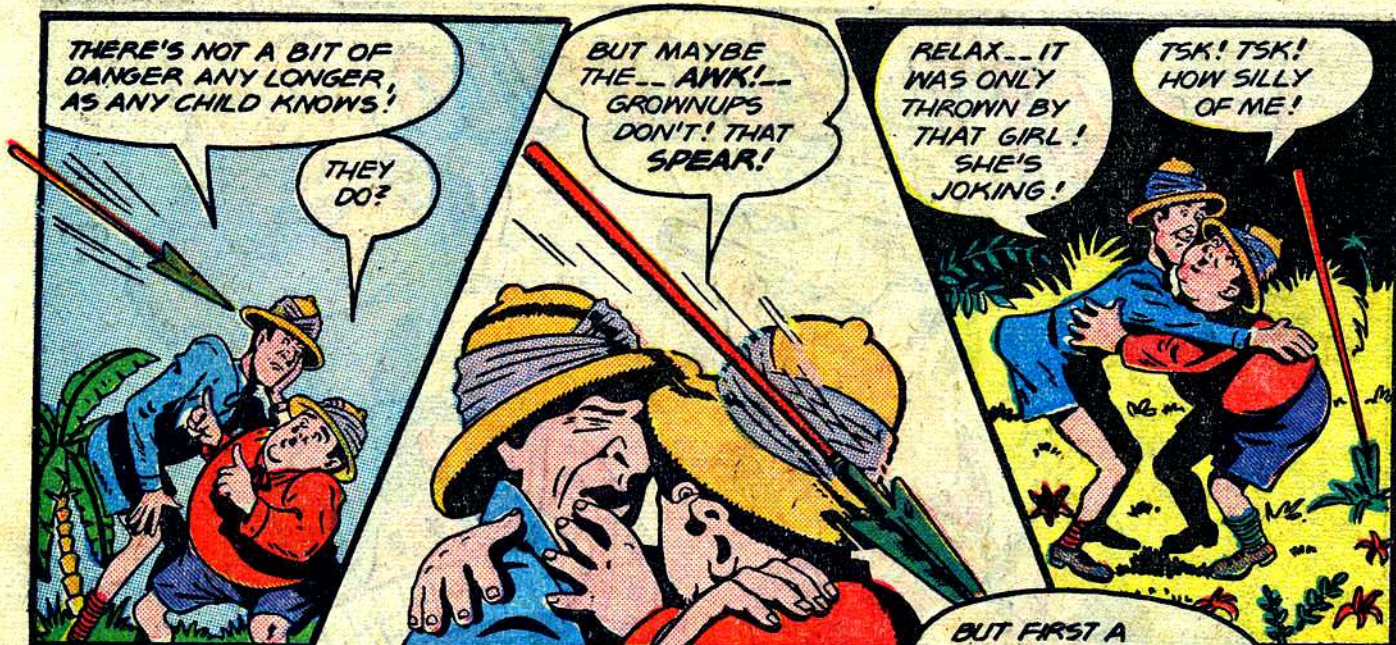
AT LAST, PEACE AND
QUIET! WASN'T IT WORTH
THE TROUBLE AND
EXPENSE TO FINALLY GET
AWAY FROM THE CROWDS?

Y-Y-Y-YES!

BUT DID WE WANT TO
GET THIS FAR AWAY?
IT'S AWFUL SCARY!

As...
NONSENSE! WHY
THE JUNGLE TODAY
IS SAFER THAN A
SAVINGS BOND!





THERE'S NOT A BIT OF DANGER ANY LONGER, AS ANY CHILD KNOWS!

THEY DO?

BUT MAYBE THE... AWK!... GROWNUPS DON'T! THAT SPEAR!

RELAX... IT WAS ONLY THROWN BY THAT GIRL! SHE'S JOKING!

TSK! TSK! HOW SILLY OF ME!

BUT FIRST A PENCIL... I WANT TO JOT DOWN HER TOM-TOM NUMBER!



NOTHING LIKE A GAG, EH, HONEY? SHALL WE DASH OFF AND SPLIT A COCONUT SOMEWHERE?



DOGS! YOU DARE TO INVADE THE REALM OF MIGHTY TAWANA?



ABBOTT! IS SHE STILL JOKING?

WHY, OF COURSE, SHE IS... I THINK!



STILL, TAWANA WILL
SPARE YOU THIS
TIME... BUT I
WARN YOU
DEPART OR DIE!



SHE'S GONE! AND
WE'D BETTER GO
TOO!

PHOOEY!
I'M NOT
AFRAID
OF A
GIRL!



ESPECIALLY WHEN
SHE'S NOT HERE,
SEE? WITH THIS
DISGUISE EVEN THE
APES COULDN'T TELL
US FROM THE
BELGIAN CONGO!



As...

NICE DISGUISE LULU. IF
I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER
I'D REALLY THINK YOU
WERE TAWANA!



AND HERE'S REAL
LUCK... TAWANA
HERSELF!



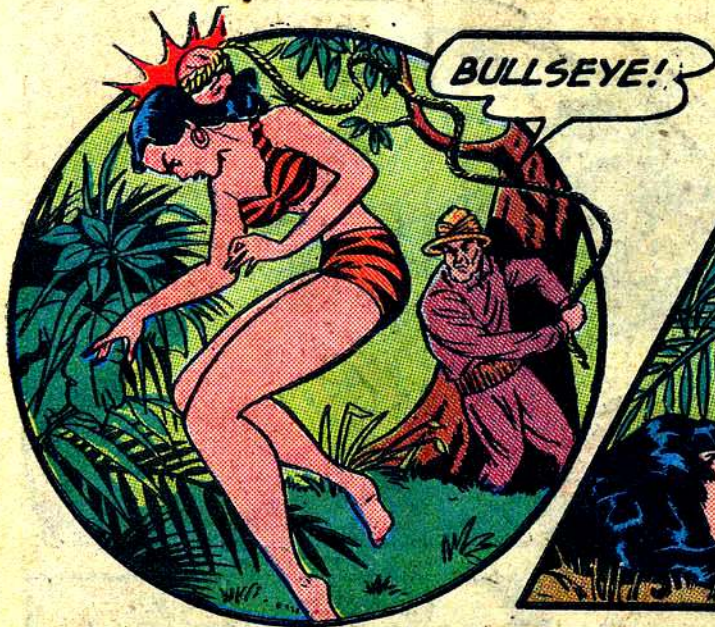
HOW'LL
YOU GET
HER, ERIC?



WATCH!

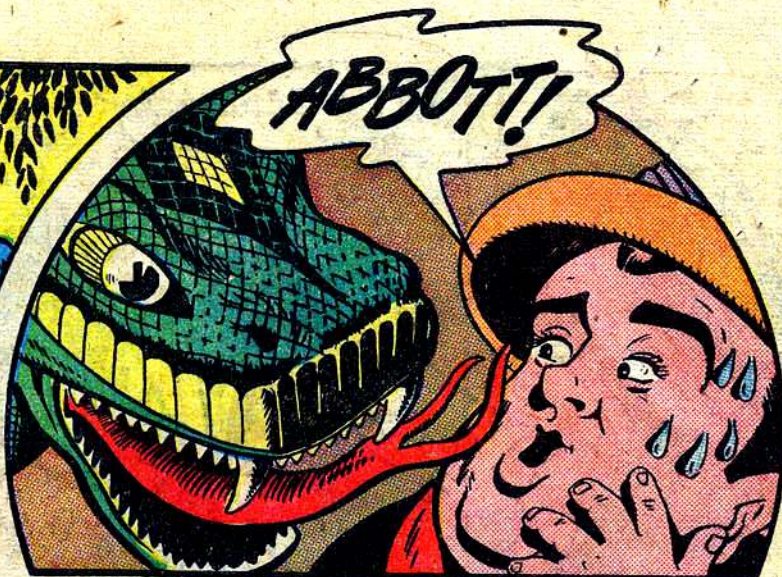
I'M GONNA
"ROCK" THAT
BABY TO SLEEP
-- PERMANENTLY!







THAT'S ODD... THEY
KEEP GETTING
TIGHTER... I...



ABBOTT!



WHAT TH...
HONESTLY, COSTELLO
YOU GET WRAPPED
UP IN THE MOST
SILLY SITUATIONS...



BUT DON'T
WORRY, I'LL
WRITE THE
AMERICAN
CONSUL!



BE SURE IT'S AIRMAIL...
NO, WAIT, SHE'S FRIENDLY!
SHE'S GOT A REAL CRUSH
ON ME!

WELL, COME
DOWN THEN
WE'RE IN A
HURRY!



ER... YOU CAN
JUST DROP ME
HERE... ANY-
PLACE!

OH, COME
ON STOP
TALKING!



AW, DON'T BE MEAN
SEE? THE SNAKE'S
CRYING AND THEY'RE
NOT CROCODILE TEARS
G'BYE BABY!



MAYBE SHE WAS JUST A REPTILE, BUT I'LL MISS THOSE LOVELY, BEADY LITTLE EYES. I -

LOOK!



TSK! TSK! BUSY LITTLE TAWANA - ALL TIED UP AGAIN.



NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE YOU? C'MON AND FIGHT LIKE A WOMAN! YOU FEMALE YOU!



OH, LET'S BE FRIENDS, COSTELLO.



OKAY, READ ANY GOOD FOOTPRINTS LATELY, TAWANA?



COSTELLO, LOOK!



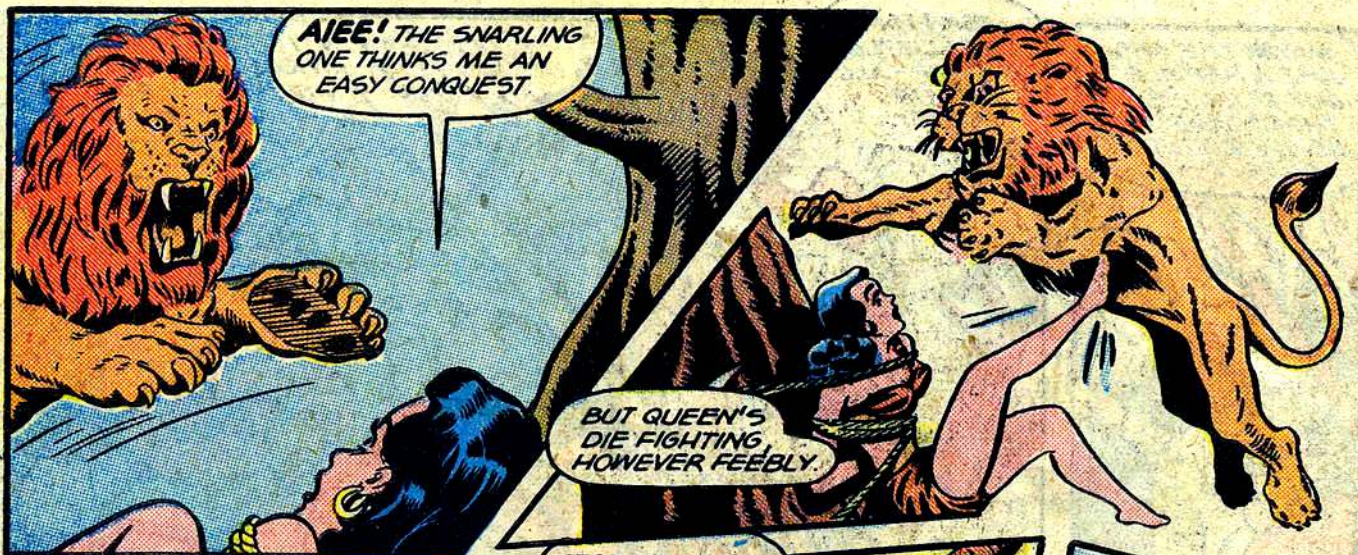
YEAH... LION FORMS TO THE RIGHT!



BUT THERE'S IMMEDIATE SEATING IN THE BALCONY.

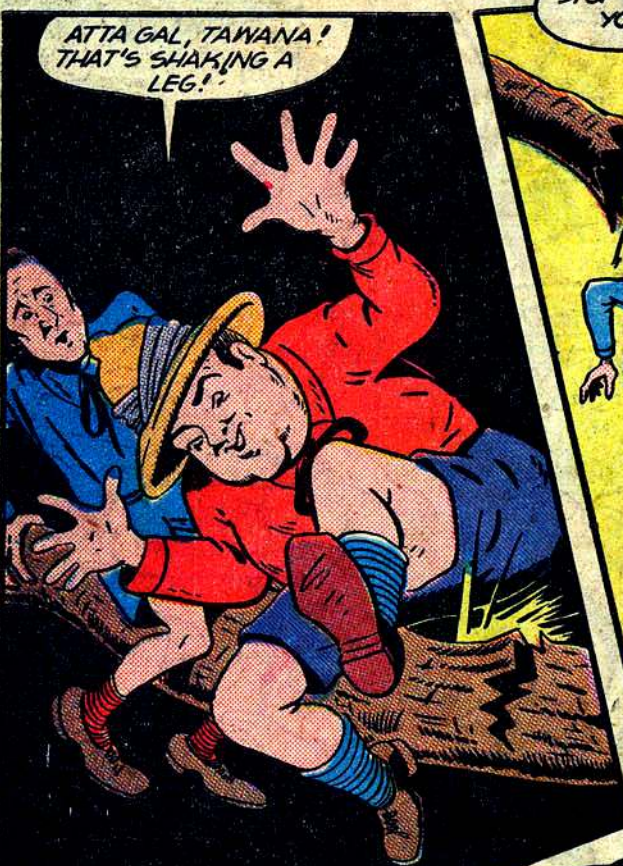


OH, GOLLY, POOR, TAWANA! I'LL BET SHE'D LOVE TO BREAK THIS DINNER DATE. G'WAN, SCAT!

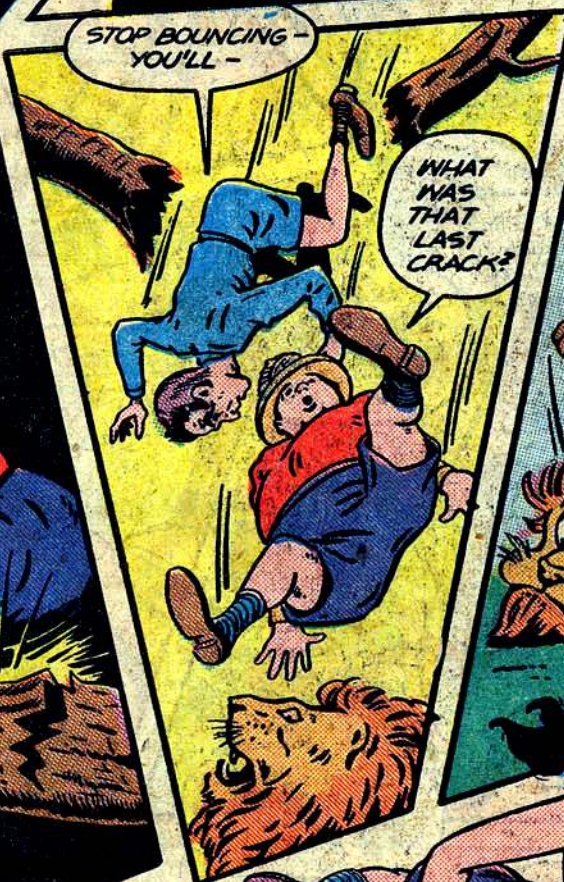


AIEE! THE SNARLING
ONE THINKS ME AN
EASY CONQUEST.

BUT QUEEN'S
DIE FIGHTING
HOWEVER FEEBLY.



ATTA GAL, TAWANA!
THAT'S SHAKING A
LEG!

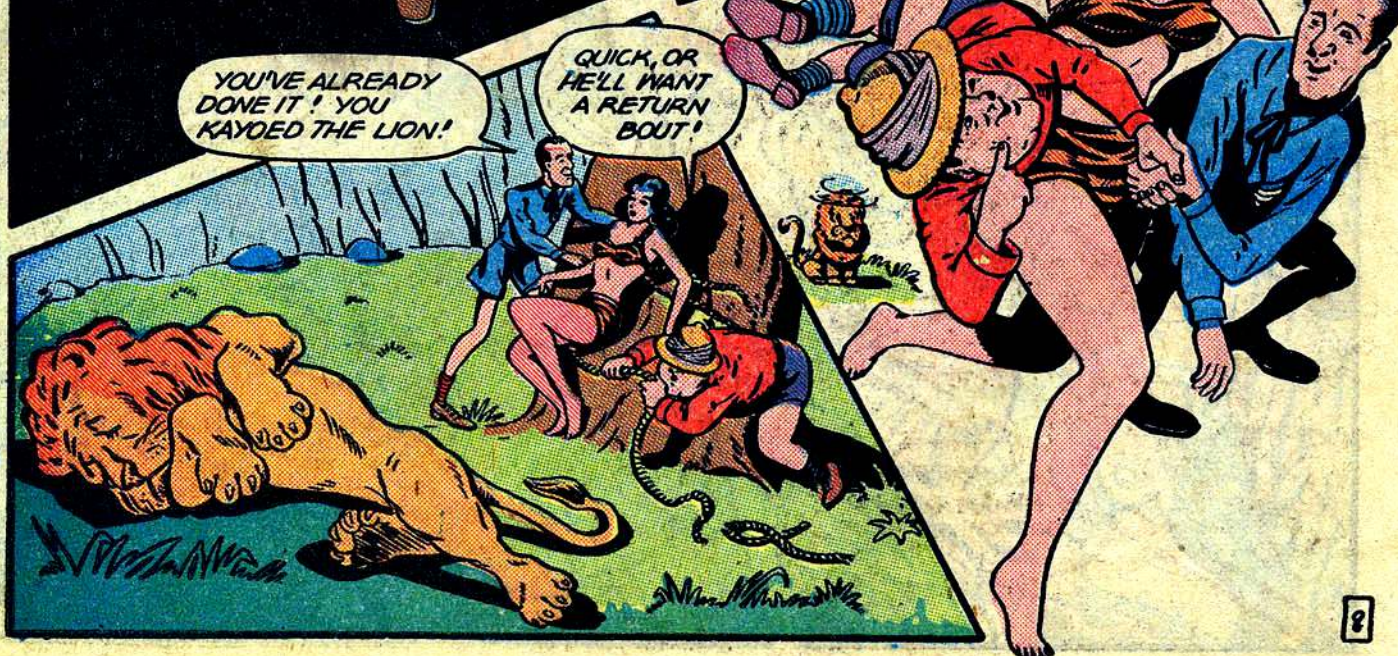


STOP BOUNCING -
YOU'LL -

WHAT
WAS
THAT
LAST
CRACK?



ABBOTT!
WHAT'LL
I DO?



YOU'VE ALREADY
DONE IT! YOU
KAYOED THE LION!

QUICK, OR
HE'LL WANT
A RETURN
BOU!

HOW
MAY I
REPAY
YOU?

WE WANNA GO HOME! JUST POINT OUT THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE U.S.A!

FOLLOW ME!

ABBOTT! LET'S WAIT FOR THE NEXT CROSSTOWN SAFARI! I'M SCARED OF HIGH PLACES.

OH, COME ON. THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!

BUT THERE'S (PUFF!) SO MUCH OF ME!

STILL IT SURE IS A CHEAP WAY TO TRAVEL! CHANGE HERE FOR INDO-CHINA AND ALL LOCAL STOPS!

I-ER-BEG YOUR PARDON. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE USING YOUR TAIL

ABBOTT! HE'S MAKING A MONKEY OUT OF ME - ABBOTT!

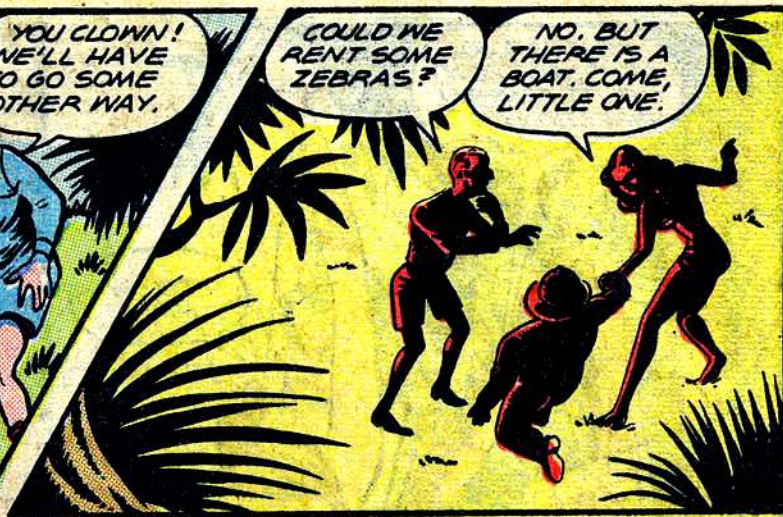


SORRY, FOLKS. GUESS I TRIED TO SOLO TOO SOON.

YOU CLOWN! WE'LL HAVE TO GO SOME OTHER WAY.

COULD WE RENT SOME ZEBRAS?

NO, BUT THERE IS A BOAT. COME, LITTLE ONE.



A BOAT! THAT'S SWELL! I KNOW A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL.



I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE, TAWANA.

BUT IF YOU'RE EVER IN OUR HEMISPHERE, BE SURE TO LOOK US UP!



SO LONG, HONEY. DROP US A SMOKE SIGNAL ONCE IN A WHILE.

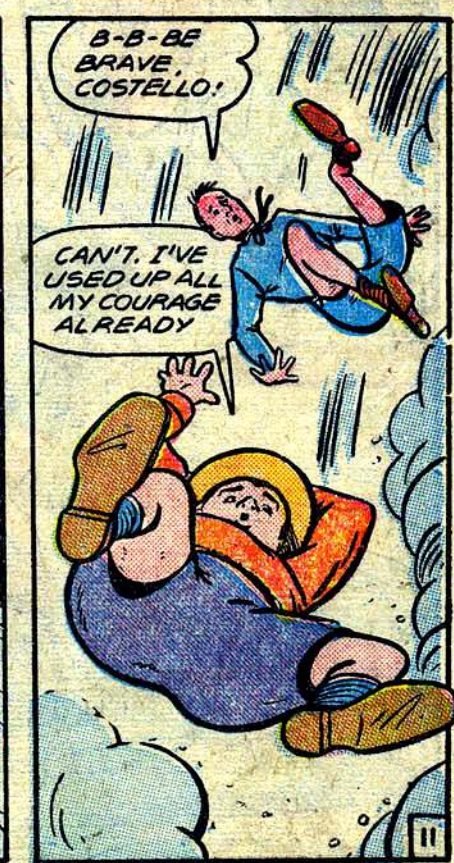
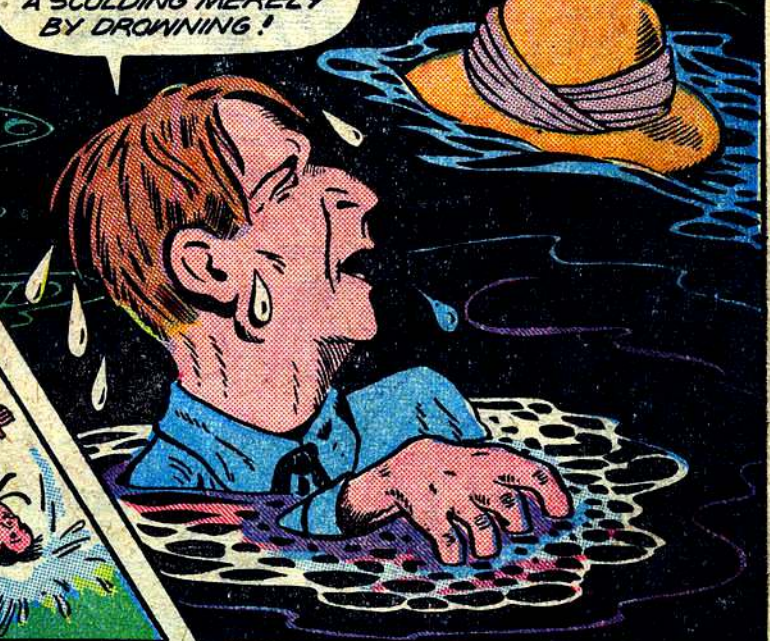
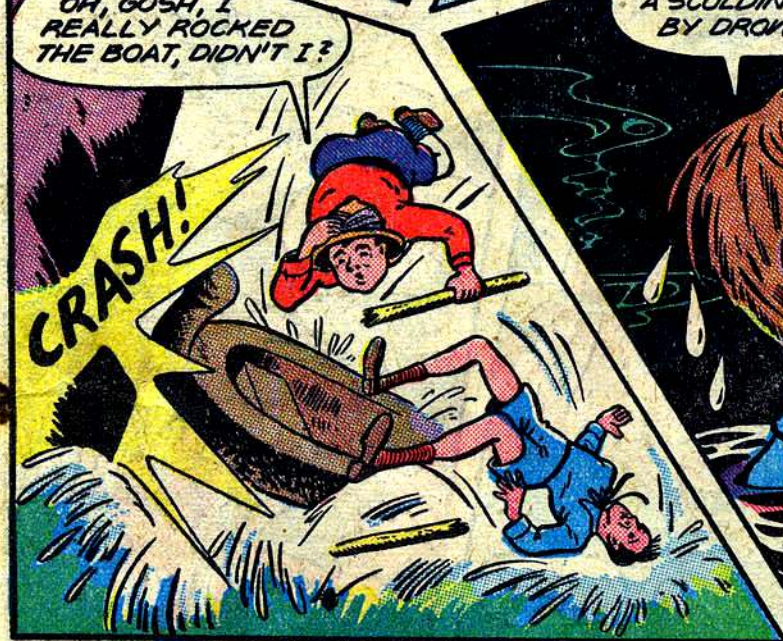
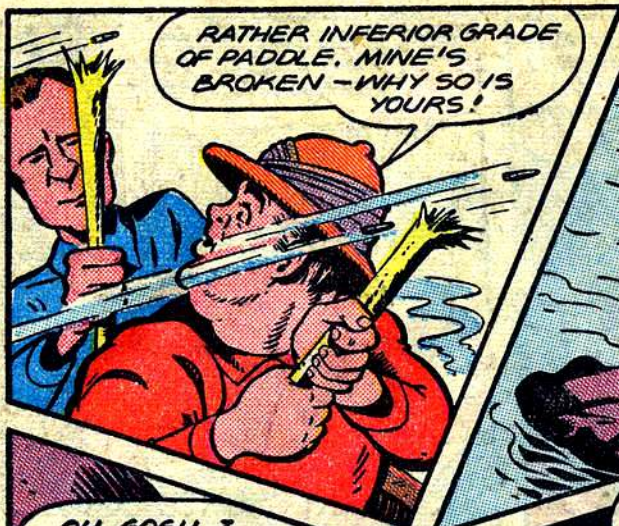


As...
WOW! THIS JUNGLE QUEEN BIZ SURE IS ROUGH ON THE TOOTSIES, ERIC.

QUIET, LULU! I SPOT SOMETHING!



HMM... COUPLE OF OTHER MUGGS HEADED FOR THE WASULI VILLAGE, EH? WELL, THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.



HAH! THEY'RE GONERS, LULU, WHICH GIVES US A MONOPOLY ON THE LOCAL CRIME WAVE.

NOTHING BETWEEN US AND THE WASULI JEWELS NOW BUT A FEW MILES AND A LITTLE CHATTER.

BUT... OUCH! THAT'S ONE TIME WE WENT OVER WITH A BANG!

W-W-WHAT A PLACE! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING HERE TO EAT B-BUT US?

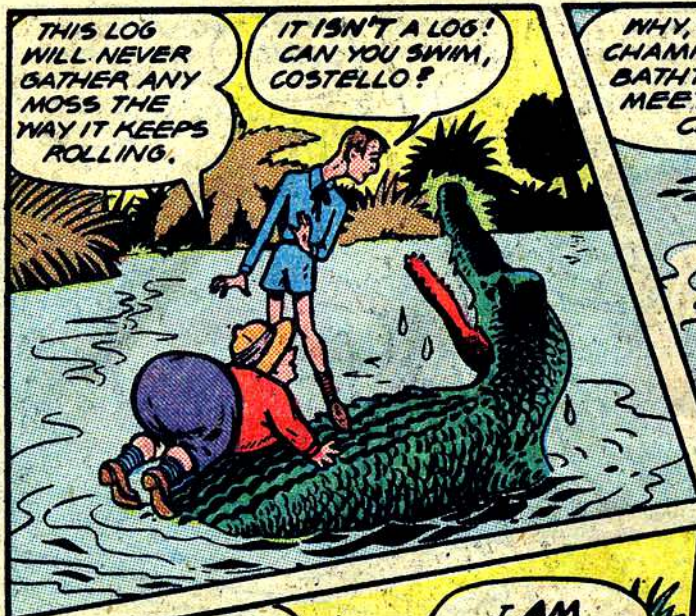
BOY, SOME DROP! DID YOU SHRIEK SOMETHING, ABBOTT?

SEARCH ME.

BUT THIS GUY'S GONNA HAVE HIS TOOTHPICK BEFORE LUNCH!

NICE WORK!

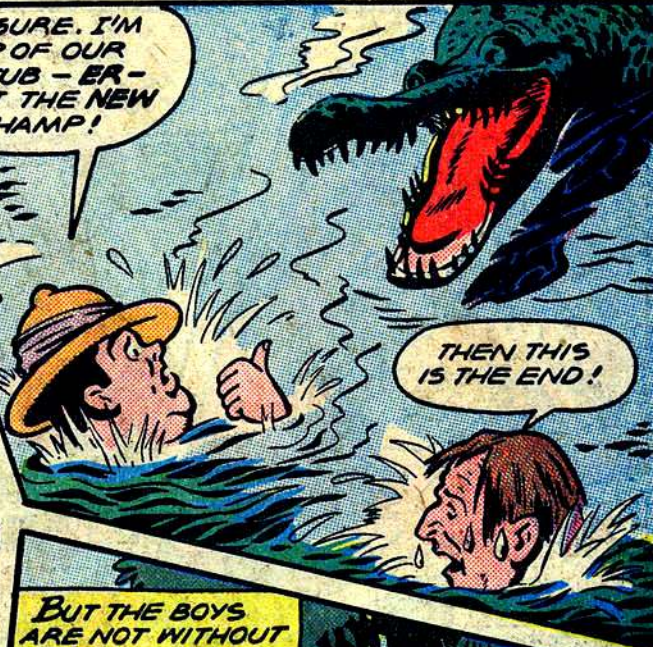
OH, ANY HERO COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING. LET'S RELAX ON THIS LOG, EH?



THIS LOG
WILL NEVER
GATHER ANY
MOSS THE
WAY IT KEEPS
ROLLING.

IT ISN'T A LOG!
CAN YOU SWIM,
COSTELLO?

WHY, SURE. I'M
CHAMP OF OUR
BATHTUB - ER -
MEET THE NEW
CHAMP!



THEN THIS
IS THE END!



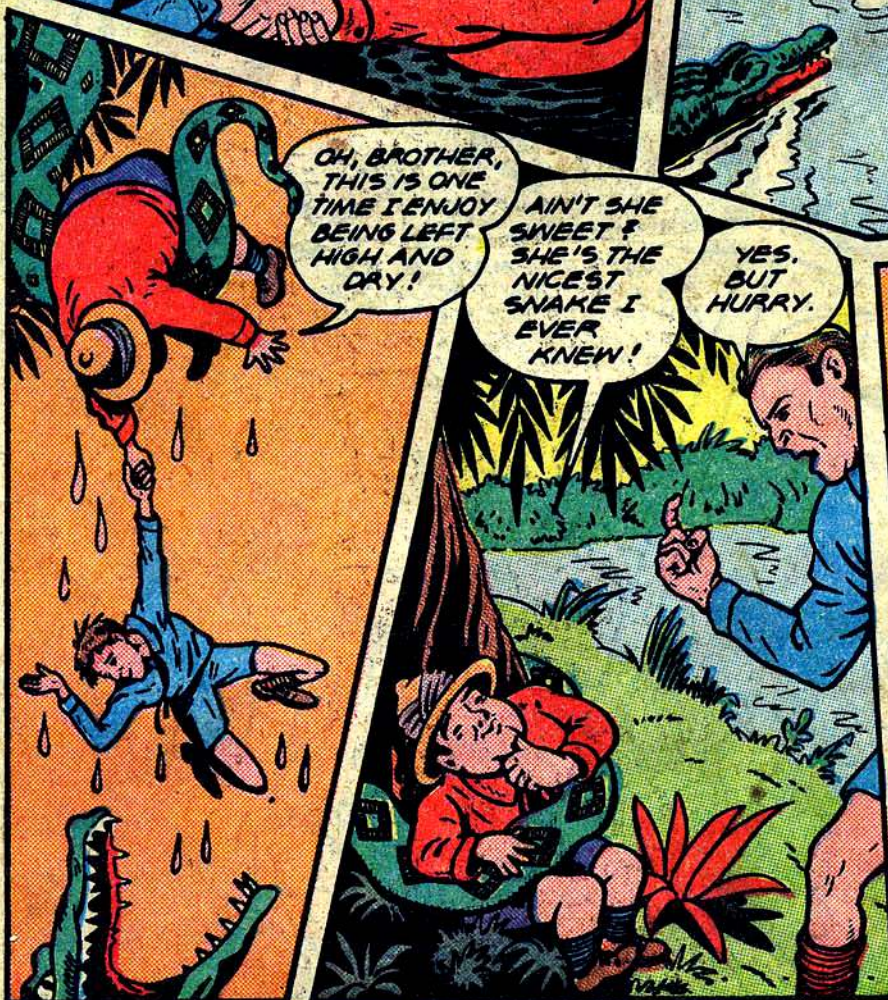
SHAKE,
OLD
PAL!

I AM
SHAKING -
JUST LIKE
A LEAF!



BUT THE BOYS
ARE NOT WITHOUT
FRIENDS, FOR...

LOOK!



OH, BROTHER,
THIS IS ONE
TIME I ENJOY
BEING LEFT
HIGH AND
DRY!

AIN'T SHE
SWEET?
SHE'S THE
NICEST
SNAKE I
EVER
KNEW!

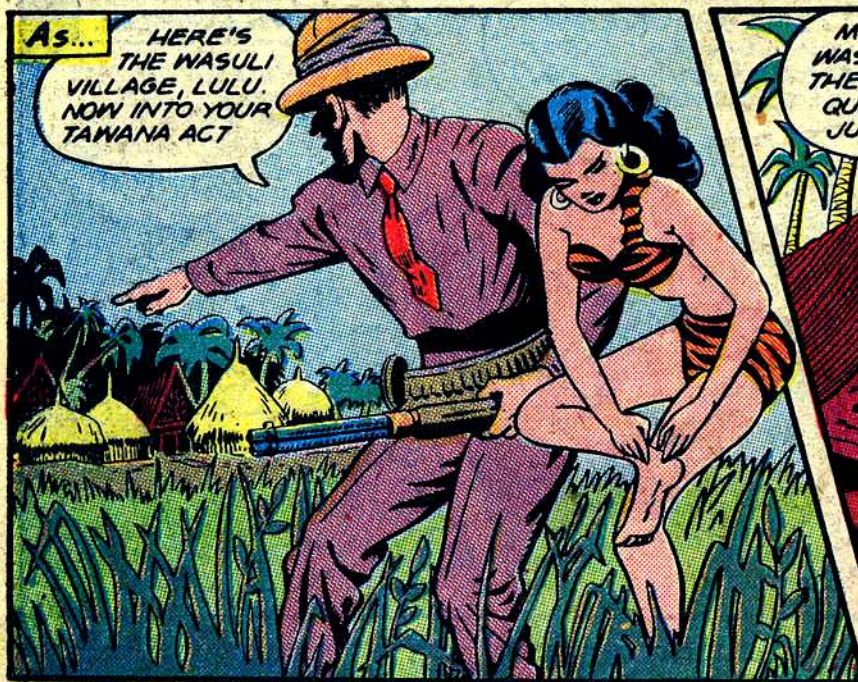
YES,
BUT
HURRY.



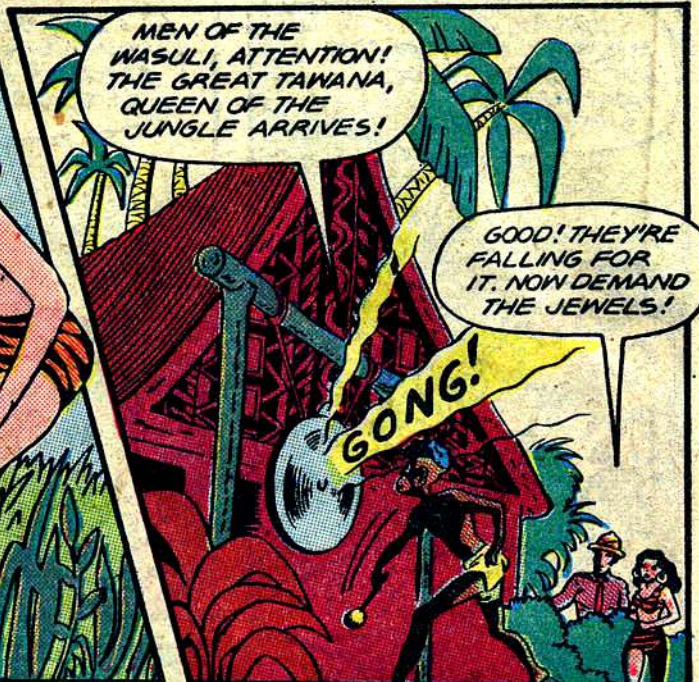
BUT ABBOTT,
I CAN'T GO
NOW! NOT
WHEN SHE'S
SO (OOF!)
ATTACHED
TO ME!







As...
HERE'S
THE WASULI
VILLAGE, LULU.
NOW INTO YOUR
TAWANA ACT



MEN OF THE
WASULI, ATTENTION!
THE GREAT TAWANA,
QUEEN OF THE
JUNGLE ARRIVES!

GOOD! THEY'RE
FALLING FOR
IT. NOW DEMAND
THE JEWELS!

GONG!



THEY'LL DO WHAT YOU
ORDER, THINKING YOU'RE
TAWANA - WAIT SOME-
ONE'S COMING!



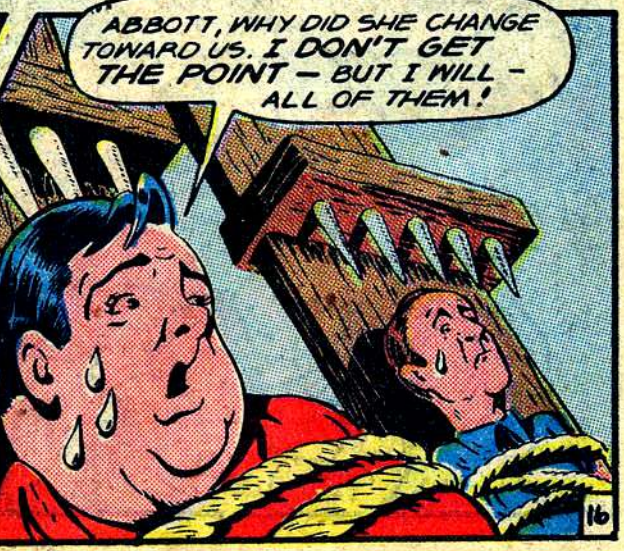
THOSE OTHER TWO
LUGS-GOTTA
THINK FAST!

IMAGINE THOSE
GUYS WERE GOING
TO KILL US. YOU
WOULDN'T LET
THEM, WOULD YOU?

TAWANA!
ARE WE
GLAD TO
SEE YOU!



OF COURSE NOT - NOT
WITHOUT YOUR SUFFERING
THE TORTURE OF A
THOUSAND BARBS! BIND
THEM! TAWANA HAS
SPKEN!



ABBOTT, WHY DID SHE CHANGE
TOWARD US. I DON'T GET
THE POINT - BUT I WILL -
ALL OF THEM!



IT IS ODD.
THE SO FAT ONE
IS FAMILIAR. I
HAVE SEEN
THAT STOMACH
SOMEPLACE
BEFORE!



HOLD! I
HAVE IT!
LAY DOWN
YOUR ARMS!



BEHOLD, MEN OF
THE WASULI - THE
FAT ONE IS CAST IN
THE IMAGE OF
OUR TOTEM GOD!

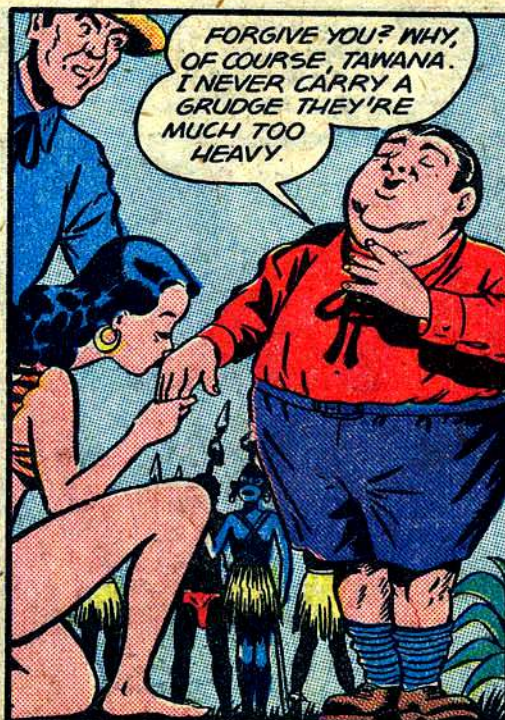


HEY, HOW ABOUT
THIS? IT LOOKS
JUST LIKE ME!
SAME EYES -
SAME CHINS!

THE
WASULI
REJOICE
THIS
DAY!



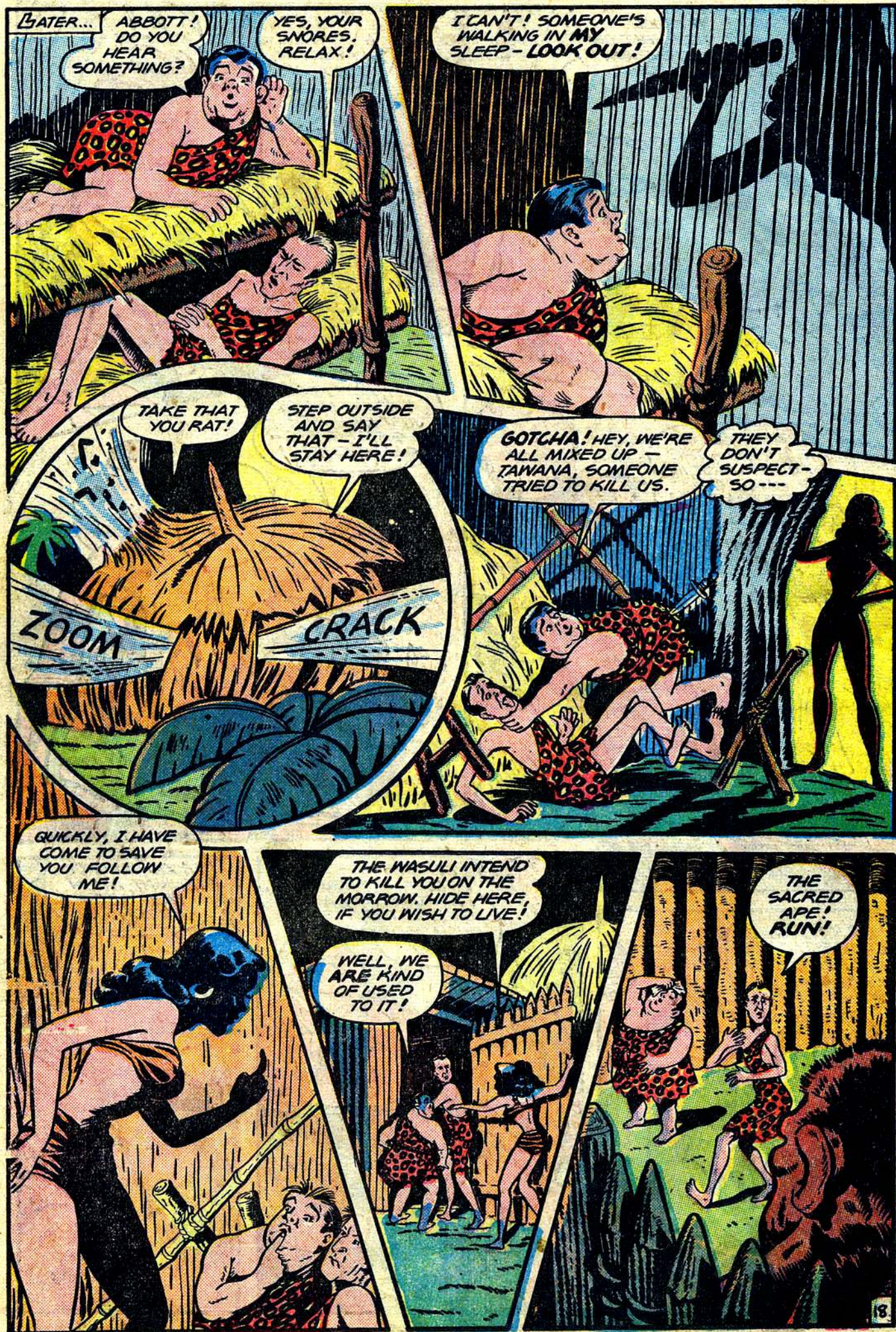
DRAT IT! THE
CHUMPS ADORE
HIM! I'D BETTER
MAKE FRIENDS
FAST!



FORGIVE YOU? WHY,
OF COURSE, TAWANA.
I NEVER CARRY A
GRUDGE THEY'RE
MUCH TOO
HEAVY.



GOOD GAL! NOW
TONIGHT WHEN
THEY'RE
SNOOZING ...



LATER... ABBOTT! DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

YES, YOUR SNORES. RELAX!

I CAN'T! SOMEONE'S WALKING IN MY SLEEP - LOOK OUT!

TAKE THAT YOU RAT!

STEP OUTSIDE AND SAY THAT - I'LL STAY HERE!

GOTCHA! HEY, WE'RE ALL MIXED UP - TAWANA, SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL US.

THEY DON'T SUSPECT - SO ---

QUICKLY, I HAVE COME TO SAVE YOU FOLLOW ME!

THE WASULI INTEND TO KILL YOU ON THE MORROW. HIDE HERE, IF YOU WISH TO LIVE!

WELL, WE ARE KIND OF USED TO IT!

THE SACRED APE! RUN!



I HAVE AN
IDEA. GET
BEHIND HIM!

THEY WENT
THAT WAY!

NO, THIS WAY.
JUST STEPPED
OUT TO THE
SOUTH POLE!



NO USE. HE
REMEMBERS.
HE'S THE TYPE
THAT **NEVER**
FORGETS A **TORSO!**

BUT...

ATTA SNAKE!
THAT'S BRINGING
UP THE TAIL
END!



SOME
PAL. WHAT
WOULD WE
HAVE DONE
WITHOUT
HER?

STOPPED
BREATH-
ING



MADE IT! AND THERE'S
THAT TAWANA! EVEN
WITHOUT A SCORECARD,
I KNOW SHE'S NOT ON
OUR SIDE! LET'S GO!



YOU MAY THINK IT
ODD, BUT WE'RE
GONNA GET EVEN!



EEEK!

OHH!



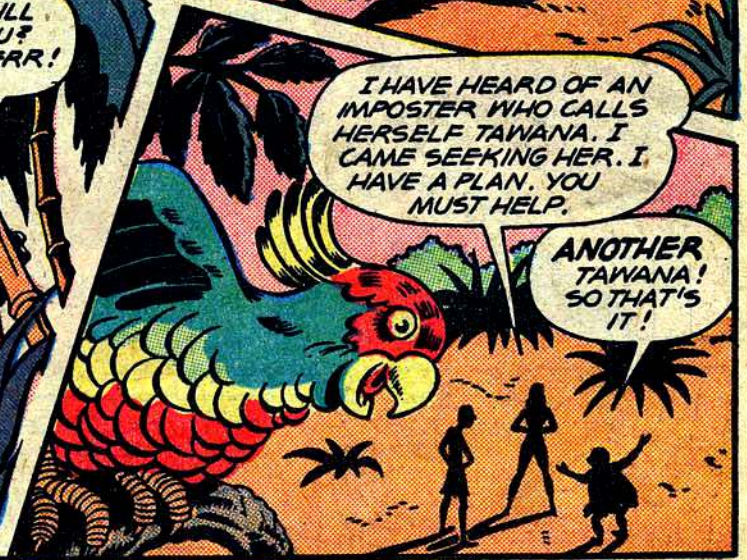
FOOLS! WHAT MEANS THIS?
WHY HAVE YOU DARED TO
ATTACK TAWANA?
SPEAK!



WE MAKE IT A
POINT NOT TO
SPEAK TO PEOPLE
WHO TRY TO KILL
US!



I KILL
YOU?
YOU ERR!



I HAVE HEARD OF AN
IMPOSTER WHO CALLS
HERSELF TAWANA. I
CAME SEEKING HER. I
HAVE A PLAN. YOU
MUST HELP.

ANOTHER
TAWANA!
SO THAT'S
IT!



AS... AT THE
WASULI
VILLAGE...

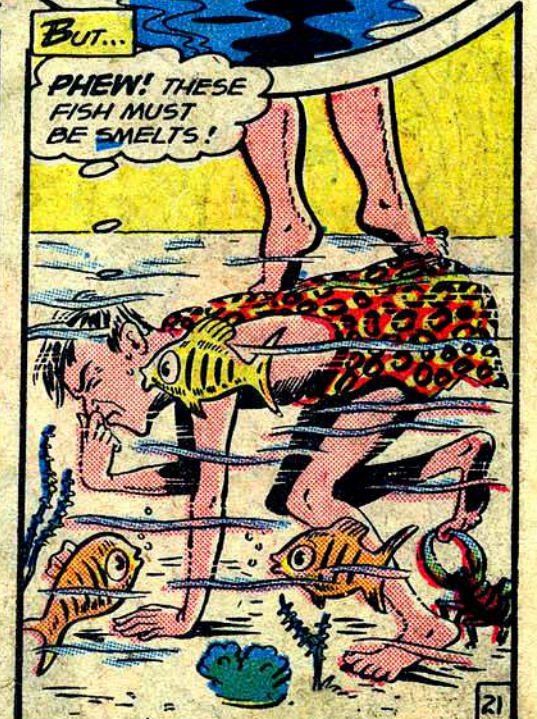
WOE! WOE! THE
HUT OF OUR GOD
OF CHUBBINESS
IS EMPTY!



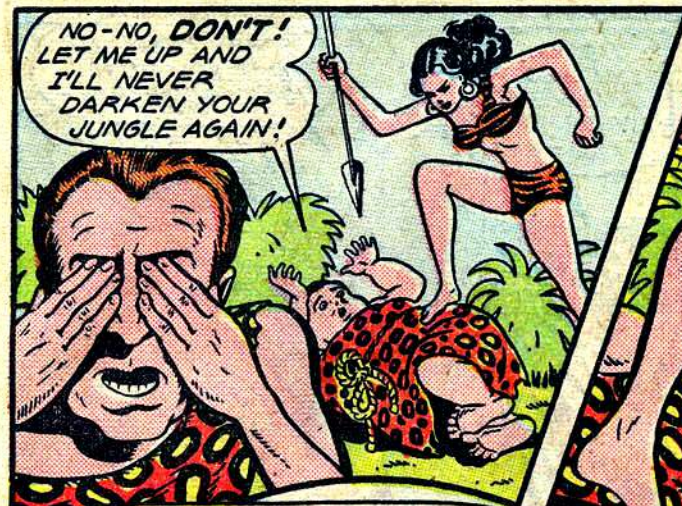
IT IS SIMPLE.
HE WAS BUT A
FALSE GOD AND
FLED IN FEAR
OF ME - TAWANA!



ALAS, WE
HAVE BEEN
FOOLED.
THE WASULI
ARE YOURS
TO
COMMAND,
O TAWANA.







NO-NO, DON'T!
LET ME UP AND
I'LL NEVER
DARKEN YOUR
JUNGLE AGAIN!

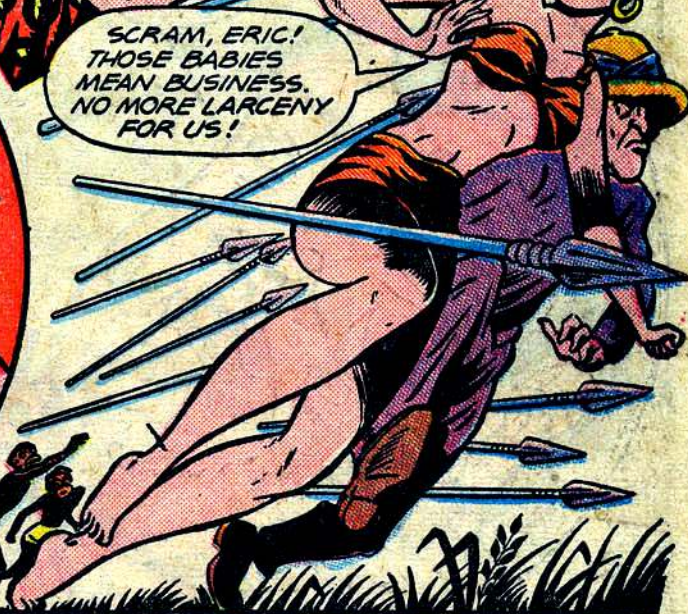


SO, WRETCH, YOU IMPERSONATE
TAWANA! RUN FOR YOUR
WORTHLESS LIFE, WHILE I AM
STILL MERCIFUL!



PLEASE, I CAN'T
DIE LIKE THIS - SO
YOUNG, SO GAY,
SO OBESE!

COURAGE!
TAWANA
COMES!



SCRAM, ERIC!
THOSE BABIES
MEAN BUSINESS.
NO MORE LARGENY
FOR US!



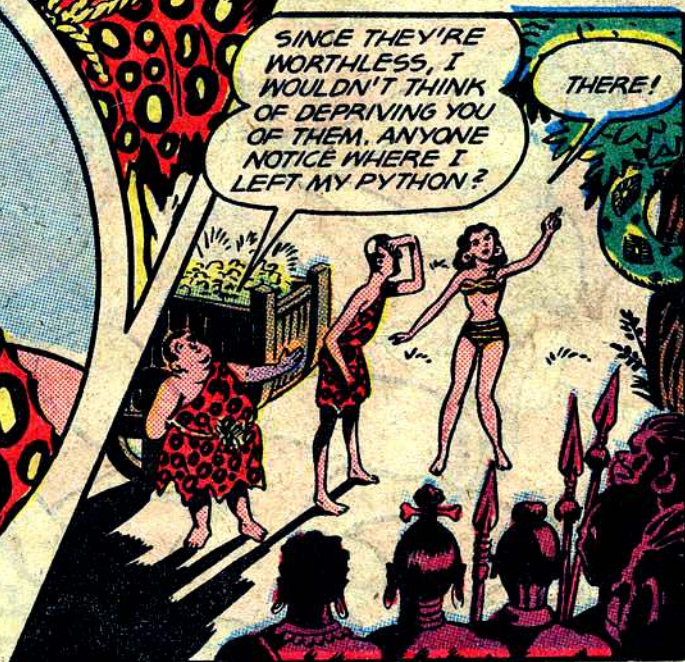
THANKS, KEEB.
BUT I COULD
HAVE MURDERED
THE BUM - I
MEAN BUMETTE!

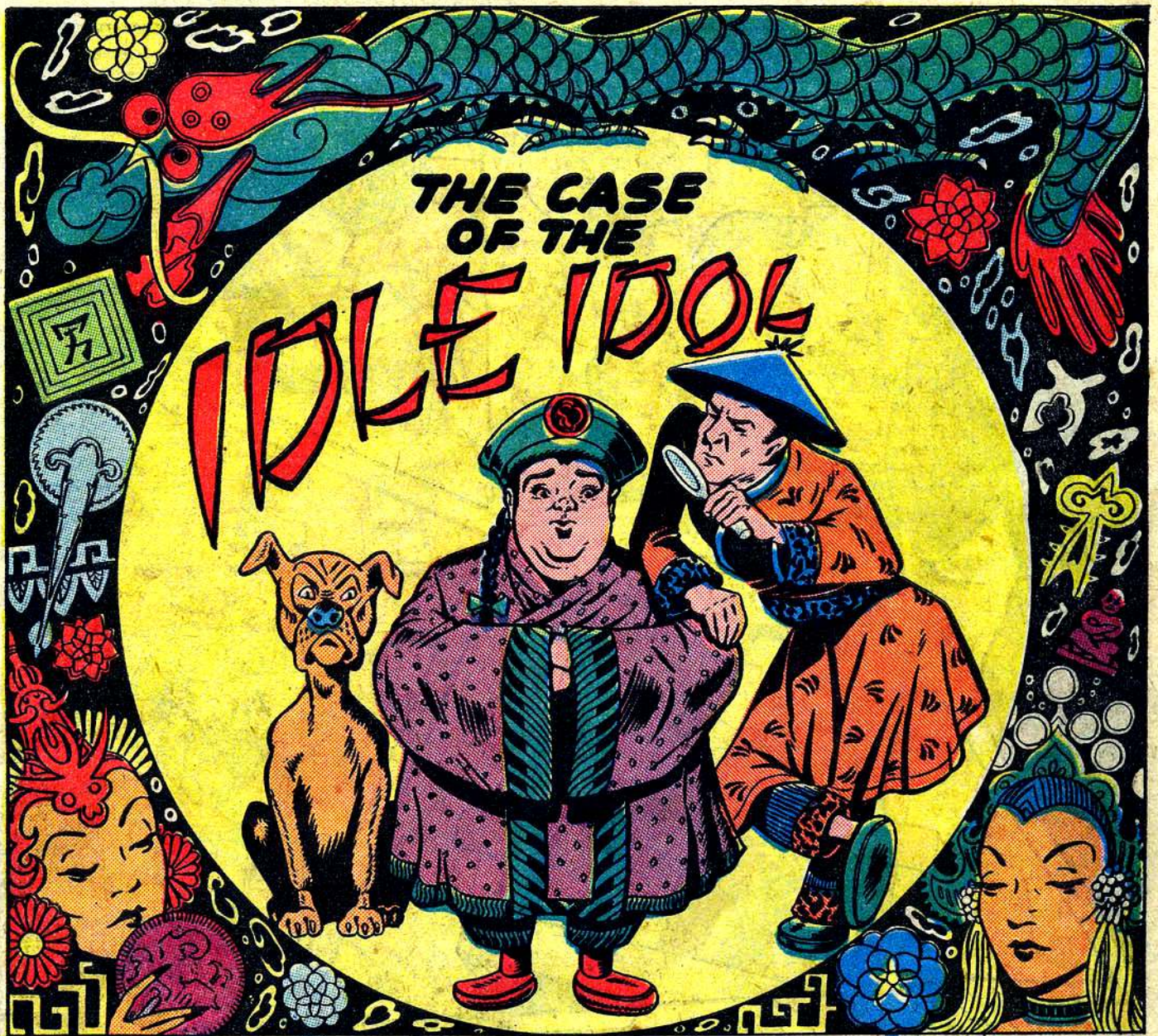


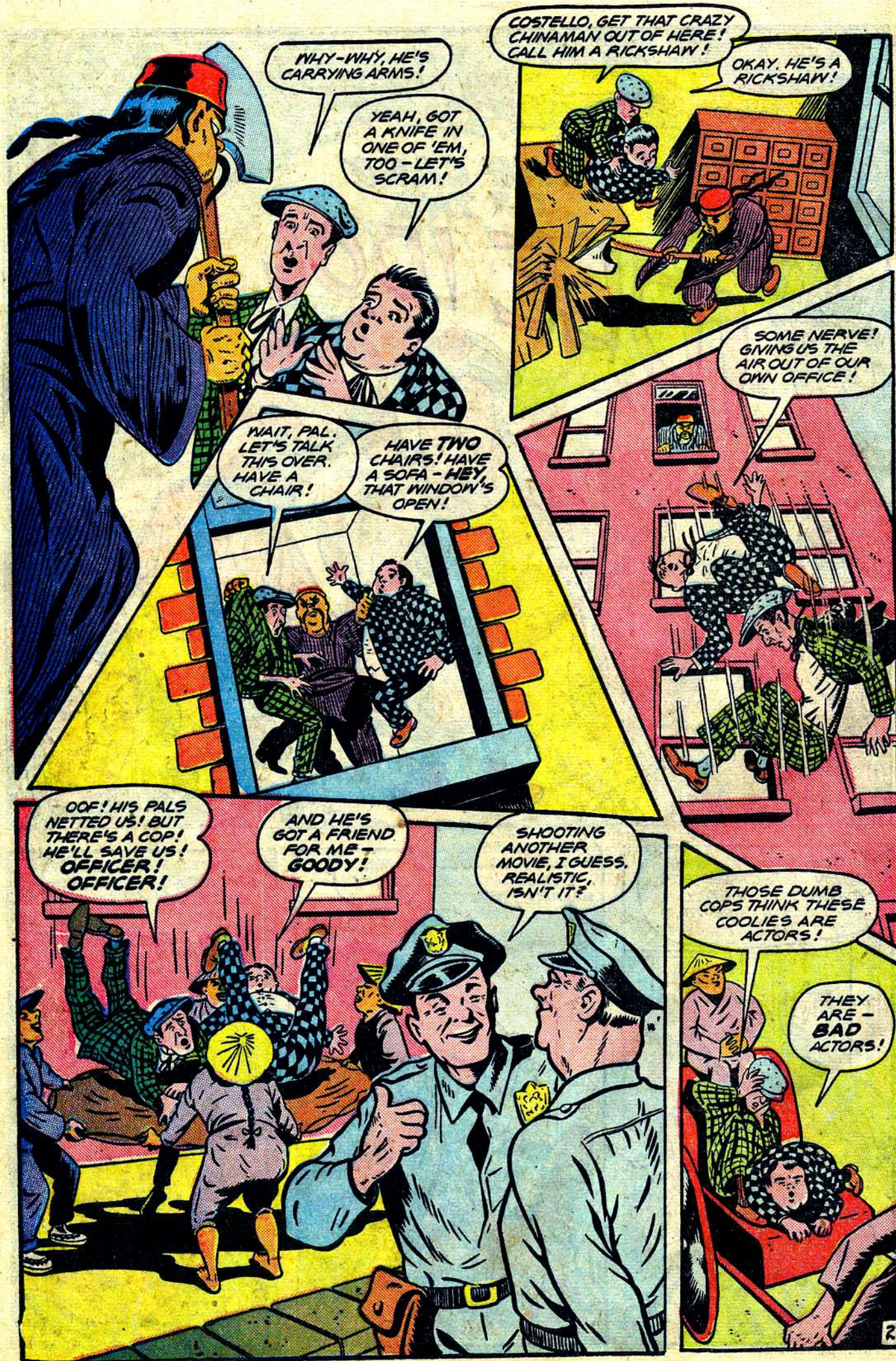
HEAR ME! AS
CHIEF OF ALL
THE WASULI, I
PRESENT THE
JEWELS TO HIM
OF MANY POUNDS.



HEY, ABBOTT!
WE'RE RICH!
WE'LL BUY
A YACHT - A
SWIMMING
POOL - A
POUND OF
BUTTER!







WHY-WHY, HE'S CARRYING ARMS!

YEAH, GOT A KNIFE IN ONE OF 'EM, TOO - LET'S SCRAM!

WAIT, PAL. LET'S TALK THIS OVER. HAVE A CHAIR!

HAVE TWO CHAIRS! HAVE A SOFA - HEY, THAT WINDOW'S OPEN!

COSTELLO, GET THAT CRAZY CHINAMAN OUT OF HERE! CALL HIM A RICKSHAW!

OKAY, HE'S A RICKSHAW!

SOME NERVE! GIVING US THE AIR OUT OF OUR OWN OFFICE!

OOF! HIS PALS NETTED US! BUT THERE'S A COP! HE'LL SAVE US! OFFICER! OFFICER!

AND HE'S GOT A FRIEND FOR ME - GOODY!

SHOOTING ANOTHER MOVIE, I GUESS. REALISTIC, ISN'T IT?

THOSE DUMB COPS THINK THESE COOLIES ARE ACTORS!

THEY ARE - BAD ACTORS!

SOON... DEEP IN
CHINATOWN...

A TEMPLE! MAYBE
THEY'RE JUST TAKING
US HOME FOR SOME
REAL CHINESE
COOKING.

THAT'S OKAY,
IF WE'RE
NOT ON THE
MENU.

LOOKS LIKE HE
WANTS US TO ENTER.
WONDER WHAT'S ON
THE OTHER SIDE OF
THE DOOR?

CAN'T BE
WORSE THAN
WHAT'S ON
THIS SIDE.

GOSH, COSTELLO
WHOEVER THIS
IS SURE LOOKS
MAD!

YEAH, BUT
I'LL MAKE
FRIENDS-ER-
IS THAT A
NEW SNEER
YOU'RE WEARING
HONEY?

HEAR ME, DOGS!
THE SACRED
JADE IDOL OF
MY PEOPLE HAS
BEEN TAKEN
AWAY!

IT HAS? WELL,
SURE IS A
NICE TIME OF
THE YEAR FOR
IT!

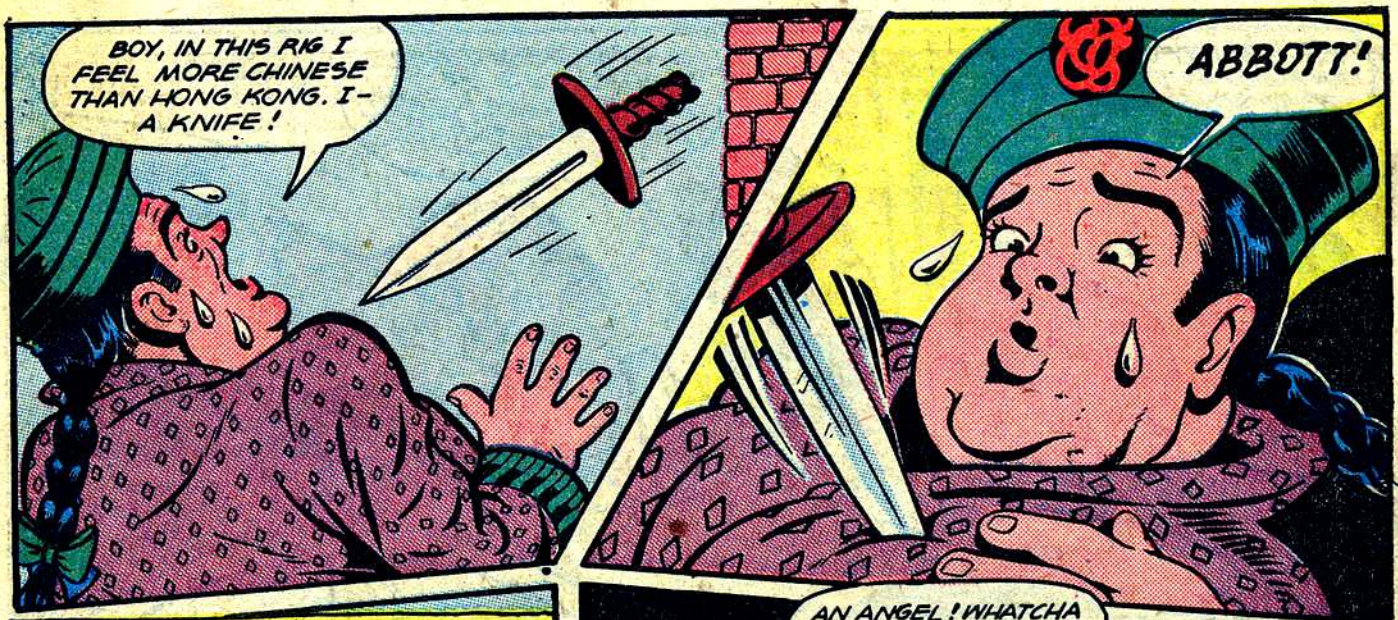
DO NOT JEST!
IT HAS BEEN
STOLEN. YOU
ARE DETECTIVES,
FIND IT!

I WILL PAY
FIFTY DOLLARS
AN HOUR!

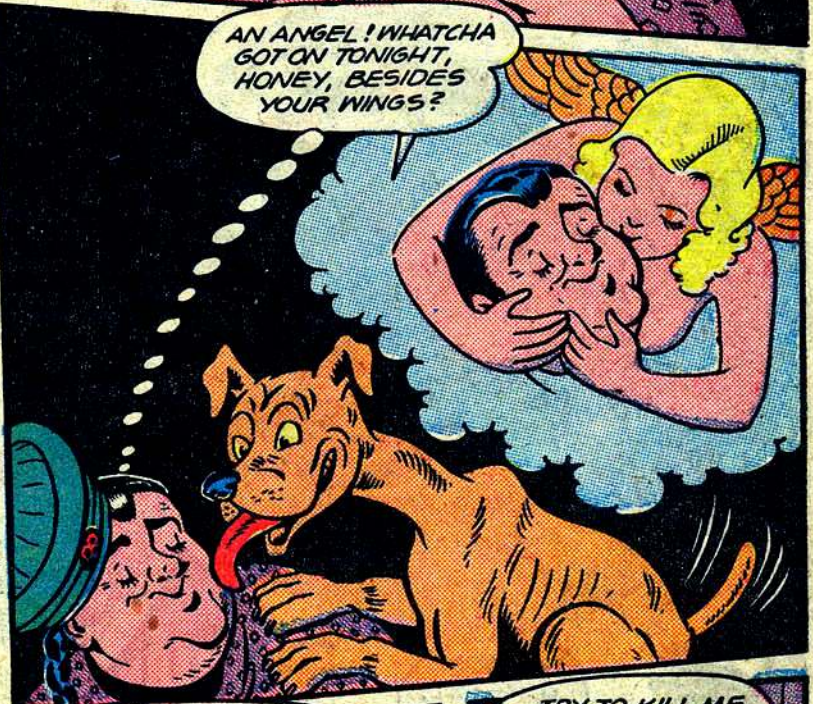
FIFTY BUCKS
AN HOUR! GEE,
IF WE NEVER
FIND IT - WE'LL
GET RICH!

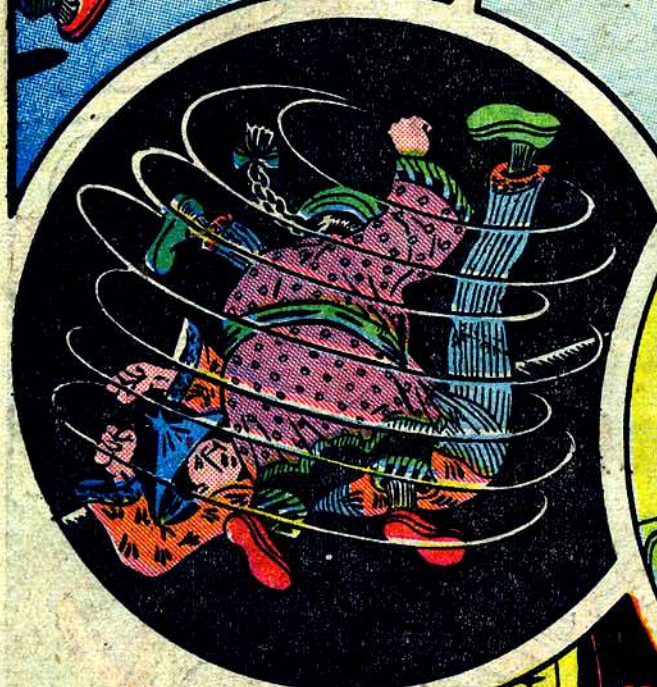
BUT... THE MASTER WAS
WISE TO STATION
ME IN THE TEMPLE
OF TAU FOO AS A SPY.
I MUST HASTEN WITH
THIS NEWS!



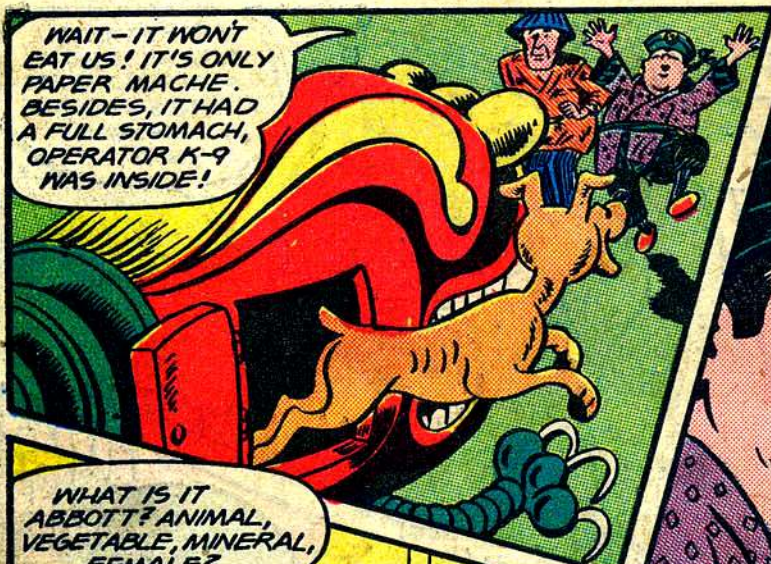


A MUFFLED SCREAM, A SMALL FAT FIGURE WADDLES A FEW STEPS, THEN FALLS UNSEEN BY ANY BUT...









WAIT - IT WON'T EAT US! IT'S ONLY PAPER MACHE. BESIDES, IT HAD A FULL STOMACH, OPERATOR K-9 WAS INSIDE!

HE'S A PAL - AND TO SHOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM, I'M GONNA TEAR UP THE MORTGAGE ON HIS KENNEL.

HMM... SEEMS LIKE WE'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING THOUGH.

WHAT IS IT ABBOTT? ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL, FEMALE?



IT'S JADE - THE IDOL! WE'VE GOT TWO MINUTES TO FIND IT - OR DIE! DRAT THAT K-9'S BARKING!



WAIT, ABBOTT! HE BARKED A MOUTHFUL - THE IDOL - K-9 FOUND IT!

WE'RE SAVED!

SOON...



HERE'S YOUR IDOL, KID. WHY DON'T YOU PUT IT IN A GOOD SAFE PLACE, LIKE THE AMAZON RIVER?

I AM GRATEFUL.



AW, SKIP IT, HONEY. NEXT TIME YOU WANT US, GIVE A BUZZ - WE'RE DISCONNECTING THE PHONE!



LATER... HEY, GENTS, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUR CHINATOWN?

CHINATOWN TOURS

WITH A MILITARY ESCORT, THAT'S HOW!



BUD ABBOTT

ABOUT ABBOTT

By **LOU COSTELLO**

A lot of people think Abbott is a jerk. I'm one of them. I've known him for years and years....without time off for good behavior. He's the closest friend I have. In fact, I don't know anyone so stingy! I'm just joking. Actually Abbott would give you the shirt off his back. Provided, of course, you were the laundry man.

Does this begin to sound as though I don't like Abbott? It *does*? Good, then I won't have to start over again. Seriously, though, we're great pals. Why compared to us, Damon and Pythias had a mere nodding acquaintance. We've been together so long that I feel better equipped than even Abbott himself to write his life story. Besides, I can spell.

You've got to give Abbott a lot of credit. You really do. Nobody else would lend him a dime. What I mean is look at the big shot he is today. And he came

from a very poor family! Gosh, were they poor! But what else could you expect with a crook like Abbott in the house? Yes, Sir, I'll take my hat off to Abbott, but I refuse to let it out of my sight.

I suppose you'd like to know how Abbott started his career. So would the F. B. I. All I know is that he claims to be a self-made man. Maybe he is, but frankly I think he should try again. He's bound to improve with practice. He's always bragging about starting at the bottom, but what's so hot about that? So does athlete's foot.

Abbott likes to boast that he drives the nicest car in town. Be careful. Don't leave your keys in the ignition. However, the automobile he has now is really a beauty. That's one thing you can't take away from him. But the finance company will the first of the month.

Abbott's always beating his gums about what a great physical specimen he is. I wish I had a body like his! The first thing I'd do would be take a shower. Maybe he has got a lot of muscles. But why doesn't he wear them? Last winter he went to Florida for his health. He couldn't find it. It must have been in some *other* state. I'll never forget the time I went to the gym with him. At closing time the porter tried to tuck Abbott away with the Indian clubs. For years he had me believing that he had played in a big Army-Navy game, all right. But it wasn't football! It was a *poker* game with two sergeants and a sailor!

People wonder why I always let Abbott do the thinking. It's just that I figure he needs the practice. He's got a nice clear mind. He never gets it cluttered up with any ideas. Abbott says *I'm* stupid. Maybe I am. But when I look at him, I know I haven't got a monopoly.

I guess I shouldn't kick. Over the years I've had a lot of fun. But not with Abbott! One Saturday night he asked me out on a double date. It *really* was a double date! I had to pay for him, too! I would have left in a huff, except that a taxi's faster.

Don't get me wrong. Actually I'm very fond of Abbott. Why I have him over to my house every single night. I wish I could remember to close the windows.



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